

After the change of sovereignty as result of the Spanish American War of 1899, a military unit was recruited from the Puerto Rico residents and organized into the "Regimiento de Voluntarios Puertorriqueños". In 1908 was reorganized into a Regular Army Unit of the U.S. and in 1920 was given the numerical designation of 65th Infantry, United States Army. However, what best identifies the regiment is not its numerical designation, but the name chosen by its members while en route to the battlefields of Korea in 1950; Borinqueneers.

Organized at the dawn of the 20th Century, the Borinqueneers matured in the service of Puerto Rico and the nation, secured the Panama Canal during WWI, was baptized by fire during the liberation of Europe in WWII, and was tempered by the conflagration of the Korean War. In the hilltops and valleys of that besieged land their valor and courage, as exemplified by men like SFC Modesto Cartagena the most decorated Hispanic soldier of the Korean War, secured their place in history. In 1960, the colors of the 65th Infantry Regiment were transferred to the Puerto Rico Army National Guard, where their successors continue to serve and preserve the history and honor of the regiment.

For 121 years the Borinqueneers never wavered in their resolve to give its best in the service of Puerto Rico and the nation. Overcoming the social norms of its time and without full representation in the U.S. Congress, as deserved by all American citizens, the Borinqueneers persevered and are an inspiration to all of us.

Today, April 13, 2021 as we commemorate the first National Borinqueneers Day—an initiative that I am proud to have led along with Senators SCOTT and RUBIO, and Representative MURPHY—I call on this body and all the citizens of our great nation to be inspired by their example and work together to overcome the challenges that we face.

KARYMME RODELA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 13, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Karymme Rodela for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Karymme Rodela is a student at Jefferson Jr./Sr. H.S. and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Karymme Rodela is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Karymme Rodela for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassador for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
REP. JAMIE RASKIN

HON. DEAN PHILLIPS

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 13, 2021

Mr. PHILLIPS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of my friend and colleague, Rep. JAMIE RASKIN, in the face of tragedy and tremendously difficult circumstances, by offering a column written by one of my constituents, Kurtis Meyer.

[From the St. Ansgar Enterprise Journal]

(By Kurtis Meyer)

Until recently, I hadn't paid much attention to Congressman Jamie Raskin from Maryland. I had seen him a few times on TV news programs, but the House of Representatives generally rewards seniority instead of ability. Since Congressman Raskin was first elected in 2016, he was lacking in the category that often earns Washington status and power.

Several months ago, in late 2020, Congressman Raskin's world was altered suddenly and dramatically. His son, Tommy, a second-year law student at Harvard, one of three Raskin children, took his life, succumbing to depression. His burial was on January 5th.

We all know what happened in Washington the next day, January 6th, when Congressman Raskin, his daughter and his son-in-law were in the Capitol, awaiting the historic moment when Electoral College results would be read. After literally fearing for their lives, in the aftermath of what—the uprising? the insurrection?—Speaker Pelosi asked Jamie Raskin to serve as the House's lead impeachment manager, a process rooted in the events of January 6.

I track closely on politics. It's has been an animating force in my life for four decades. While political campaigns are too long, too expensive, and too contentious, I engage in these battles, advocating on behalf of candidates I hope will serve our community, our state, and our nation with integrity. Today, however, I seek not to shed light on a political race, but rather to shine light on the human race, specifically, the strength, courage, and resilience of Congressman Jamie Raskin.

Last New Year's Eve, he gained membership in a club no one ever hopes to join: those who experience the loss of a child. This tragedy grew out of perhaps the least understood cause of death, soul-crushing depression. I didn't know 25-year old Tommy Raskin but have read tributes to him by those who did, including his family. Here's an excerpt from their capture of this young man's life:

Tommy entered the world like a blue-eyed cherub, a little angel (and) grew up as a strikingly beautiful curly-haired madcap boy beaming with laughter and charm, making mischief, kicking the soccer ball in the goal, acting out scenes from 'To Kill A Mockingbird' with his little sister . . . teaching other children the names of all the Justices on the Supreme Court, hugging strangers on the street, teaching our dogs foreign languages, running up and down the aisle on airplanes giving people high fives.

He hated cliques and social snobbery and never had a negative word for anyone but tyrants and despots, and opposed all malicious gossip, stopping all such gossipers with a trademark Tommy line—'forgive me, but it's hard to be a human.'

Tommy had a perfect heart, a perfect soul, a riotously outrageous and relentless sense of humor, and a dazzling radiant mind. He

began to be tortured later in his 20s by a blindingly painful and merciless disease called depression that became unbearable for him, despite very fine doctors and a loving family. In a brief note to his parents: 'Please forgive me. My illness won today. Please look after each other, the animals, and the global poor for me. All my love, Tommy.'

I struggle to fathom the devastation caused by a child's death. I have watched, from both near and far, as others have faced this horrific challenge and am in awe of those who endure with grace and determination. Earlier this month, during a remarkably difficult time in our country's history, Congressman Raskin and his colleagues advanced the case for impeachment with dignity and reason. With the shadow of death still all too fresh, Jamie Raskin was a model of character in service to our nation.

As the Congressman is fond of saying, "Change is made by people who show up." Under the most difficult circumstances imaginable, Jamie Raskin showed up. I know of no better example of an elected official responding to duty, of placing service before self. In doing so, Congressman Raskin cast a bright ray of hope . . . that despite myriad challenges, our great country can continue as a beacon of enlightened democracy.

LAINA LOGAN

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 13, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Laina Logan for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Laina Logan is a student at Three Creeks K-8 and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Laina Logan is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Laina Logan for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassador for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

CONGRESSIONAL TEACHER
AWARDS

HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 13, 2021

Mr. BUCHANAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of outstanding public school teachers in Florida's 16th Congressional District.

I was once told that children are 25 percent of the population, but they are 100 percent of the future.

And it's true. The education of a child is an investment, not only in that student, but in the future of our country.

Therefore, I established the Congressional Teacher Awards to honor educators for their ability to teach and inspire students.